



142nd Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday & Saturday, October 4-5, 2019
3:30 pm Workshops and 6:30 pm Gavel
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
Ferndale, Arkansas

ADDENDUM

Section D - Addendum

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator

For Action:

- 1. Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install MWS Emily Hook as Pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church of Forrest City on November 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm, with the offering designated to the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen:**

**RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
MWS Susan Arnold, Wynne Presbyterian Church, to Charge the Pastor
MWS Fern Davis, Holly Grove Presbyterian Church
MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter, to Preach
MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk, to Charge the Congregation
RE Rockwell T. Gerlach, Holly Grove Presbyterian Church
RE Don Eilbott, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
RE Nancy Dunaway, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City**

- 2. Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install MWS Susan Arnold as Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church of Wynne on November 3, 2019 at 3:00 pm, with the offering designated to the Good Shepherd Center in Wynne, Arkansas:**

**RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
RE Beth Bradshaw, Wynne Presbyterian Church, Wynne
RE Patty Minga, First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, to Charge the Pastor
RE Dub Lyerly, First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge
MWS Matt Bussell, First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, to Preach
MWS Emily Hook, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City
MWS John Arnold, First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge, to Charge the Congregation**

- 3. Motion to approve Rev. Brian Timmons, a member in good standing of the United Methodist Church denomination, as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and enroll him as such with all of the privileges of membership,**

including celebrating the sacraments, moderating the session, and voting at meetings of Presbytery. (His Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Exhibit II.)

4. **Motion to receive MWS Emmett Powers, HR, and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request his dismissal from New Covenant Presbytery.** (His Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Exhibit III.)

5. **Motion to receive MWS Carl McCormack, HR, and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request his dismissal from Palo Duro Presbytery.** (His Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Exhibit IV.)

6. **Motion to approve RE Susie Wright as a Commissioned Ruling Elder serving Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, and to Commission her.** MWS Chip Hatcher will serve as her mentor. (Her Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Exhibit V.)

Celebration of Anniversaries of Ordination, Certification and Commissioning of Church Professionals in the Presbytery of Arkansas. (See Section D – Exhibit VI.)

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry concurred with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship of MWS Dari Rowen as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Benton, effective September 22, 2019, as previously voted on by the congregation, and granted permission for the Stated Clerk to transfer her membership upon receipt of the request of Coastal Carolina Presbytery to dismiss her. MWS Dari Rowen has taken a call as Pastor of Red Springs Presbyterian Church in Coastal Carolina Presbytery.

2. The Committee on Ministry concurred with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship of MWS Dan Wooley as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, effective July 15, 2019, as previously voted on by the congregation.

3. The Committee on Ministry approved Rev. Brian Timmons, a member in good standing of the United Methodist Church denomination, to serve in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Pea Ridge with the following terms of call:

Salary	<u>\$350.00 per month</u>
Housing	<u>\$900.00 per month</u>
Automobile Expense (Current IRS rate)	

4. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of RE Susie Wright as CRE for Pastoral Care and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, with the covenant approved effective September 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, and the commission to be for

one-year, effective September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020, with permission to celebrate the sacraments, and a salary of \$25 per hour and \$150 per event.

Section D – Exhibit II

Rev. Brian Timmons, Statement of Faith

I believe in God who is the beginning and the end of all that is. God created the individual (Ps. 139) and all that is in this world. God did not just create and then stay in eternity separated from humanity and the rest of creation, rather God continues to create (Rev. 21:6), restore (1 Peter 5:10), and interact with humanity. God has been with humanity since the beginning, even when humanity has, either collectively or individually, failed to listen to God's word or outright rejected God. God made a covenant with the Hebrew people. God would be their God and they would be God's people. The people often failed, but God remained faithful. Throughout history there have been times when it seemed all hope was lost and the covenant was forgotten. These are the times in which God moved and worked and restored hope.

The people had waited so long, but at the just the right time Jesus Christ entered this world as a baby born to a poor family (Luke 2), not exactly what people were expecting. God works in ways that are often unexpected. Through his life Jesus showed us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Jesus welcomed the poor, the oppressed, the outcast. He healed the sick and the hurting all while uttering the words, "Come and follow me...come and be mine" (Matthew 4:19). In Christ the hopeless can have hope, the unlovable can be loved, and those in turmoil can find peace. We as humans do not deserve this, we cannot earn it nor can we ever pay for it. This is grace and God has offered grace freely to the world and done so out of love (John 3:16). While grace is free, it must be remembered in the consumer driven disposable world we live in, grace is not cheap like so many throw away things we consume. It came with a great price. It cost the Son of Man his life. It is because of this we offer works of service. Service is a response to love.

After the resurrection and before the ascension Jesus gave the disciples something to long for when he knew he would no longer walk with them in bodily form. This was the Holy Spirit. The Advocate (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit brings us wisdom and guidance. The Holy Spirit draws us into relationship with God. The Holy Spirit moves through prayer, moves through scripture, and moves through those whom God places in our lives so we might have understanding of how God is working in and through us.

During his brief ministry Jesus gave us the examples of the eucharist and baptism, not for his benefit but for ours. The sacraments are about transformation and how God changes lives. The sacraments are something we can physically participate in with the understanding that God's presence is experienced in the sacrament. The sacraments are a visible sign experience by the body of Christ of spiritual work God is doing inside the individual.

Just as sure as Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, he promised he would one day return to us. Many people worry, actually obsess about when and how this will happen. I feel we should not live in fear of this day. We should live each day to the fullest while serving God's Kingdom to the best of our ability while on this Earth with the gifts and talents God has given us.

Section D – Exhibit III

MWS Emmett Powers, HR, Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty whose love and grace flow like the ever flowing fountain in Calvin's metaphor. I believe that God is the creator of all things seen and unseen. God's purpose in all the creation is good. All things God created are for God's glory. God keeps all things by God's power, holding all things together by God's Word.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, who, in due time, was born to the virgin Mary, and who was, as scripture says, in all points tempted as we humans are and yet without sin. I believe that Jesus is a manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus communicated that love toward all people through his life, his preaching, his miracles, the establishment of his church, his death on the cross, his burial, and his resurrection. I believe that he ascended back to God and sits at God's right hand awaiting the final judgment of all things. I believe in his work of redemption and his sacrifice for human beings.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I affirm that the work of God's Spirit is fundamental to our daily living. The Spirit is God's presence among us, bringing comfort to us in our sorrow, enriching our spiritual development, and giving us peace that passes all understanding. I believe that the work of the Holy Spirit is necessary in the mystery of the communion. Only with the Holy Spirit can the Word be rightly proclaimed and the sacraments rightly administered.

I believe that there are two sacraments. In baptism we are sealed unto Christ. Baptism demonstrates for the church and the world God's outward sign for the believer that we may know that God's work of inner grace is present. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a consistent reminder of God's gift to the church in the work of Jesus Christ who was broken for us and died for us on the cross, and whose blood was poured out as both a sign and seal of the new covenant between God and humanity. In mystical union with Christ the sacrament is a joyous celebration of Christ and his church, and the remembrance of the history of God's grace to us.

I believe that we have only one hope and comfort and life: We are kept by the power of God in Christ and through the presence and work of God's Holy Spirit. I believe that all humans are created to glorify God and to enjoy God forever. I believe that though humans are fractured by sin, yet we are glorious to God through the work of divine creation and divine grace.

I believe that the church of Jesus Christ is an institution of God's work in the world. Its work is to provide for the nurture of all people in the Gospel, that it is made up of all those people from times past and present whom God has called and set apart for God's purposes in grace.

I believe the Bible is God's holy Word. It represents God's revelation to human kind over countless generations. It is a light to our path like no other, and from it we learn a life of discipline for our service of gratitude to God.

These core beliefs characterize the uniqueness of my personal faith. Considered together they represent the basis of my understanding of the Christian life and the foundation of the vocation to which I am called as a minister of the gospel of God in Christ.

Section D – Exhibit IV

MWS Carl McCormack, HR, Statement of Faith

I believe in God; a living God; a creative God; a relational God. Therefore, I believe that faith in God is a living, creative, and relational experience and is unquestionably the greatest gift I never deserved.

The roots of my faith run deep within the fertile soil of family tradition, watered with spiritual discipline learned at an early age, and nurtured by the church community. Over the years my faith in God has grown, yet there have been times when it was severely challenged. In the darkest days of my journey, not due to any strength or righteousness on my part, my faith remained because the object and source of my faith is strong and doggedly tenacious.

I believe that both the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament reveal a continuing relationship between God and God's creation. The stories and narratives of this relationship run through the verses from Genesis to Revelation describing a creative love that chose a people and beckoned them to follow, gave them form and purpose in the wilderness, lifting them up when they would fall; a love that took on flesh and bone in a lowly stable, continued to choose people and beckon them to follow; a love that healed and comforted, taught us to love God, neighbor, and enemy, and to live life with integrity; a love that bled and died upon a cross of rough hewn timbers, and was buried deep in a cold tomb carved of stone. And yet it is a love that proved to be so strong that death could not quench it, and the tomb could not contain it. This love continues to live in full and open relationship with us and all of creation. The love of God revealed in scripture, and the grace of God revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth are both the foundation and the framework of my faith, and Jesus Christ's call to serve His church is the essence of my life.

I believe the living God relates to us in many ways, but most profoundly through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that comforts us in grief, gives us eyes to see and ears to hear the word of God, guides us in our ministry and mission, empowers us to witness and proclamation, and binds the church together to give it life.

I believe the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 25 give form and purpose to the life of the church. Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the ill and marginalized, and giving shelter to the homeless regardless of who they are and whether they thank us or not, is the church's calling. That is how we participate in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

Section D – Exhibit V

Candidate for CRE Susie Wright Statement of Faith

I believe

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe and the giver of life. God exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God created all people equal. But people view others unequally. Love makes us equal. I believe that love is made possible by God in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, fully divine and fully human, lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for human sins by dying of the cross. Jesus is the lens through which followers see God's intention for his Kingdom. Jesus' example of living in service to others and in a continual relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit gives us God's plan for each of our lives. I believe Jesus is Lord and that God has plans to restore everything.

Jesus' presence continues to his disciples through the Holy Spirit. God's spiritual presence helps us carry out God's purposes on earth. The Spirit comes to transform our lives to do new things in the lives of individuals and the world.

The Old Testament, made up of Israel's scripture, shows us God's character and purpose for humankind. The New Testament, writings from the followers of Jesus, is about him and the new life he gave them and all future generations. The result of these writings is the Bible, a living and active document today as when it was compiled. God's written word teaches God's will for His world by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to all those who encounter it.

The Church is a mystery. How is it indestructible? When one part suffers and all suffer? When one part rejoices all parts rejoice? It consists of people who experience good days and evil days. So how can it exist? God is the answer. As the people of God, we come together to experience the Triune God in worship. We come together to glorify God through the Word and the Sacraments. We experience Christ's Spirit presence in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These acts during worship remind us of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Proclaiming the reign of God, calling disciples, being a blessing to all peoples, and confronting evil continues to be the work of the church in the world.

I believe I am a beloved child of God. I always have been. I always will be. I am totally accepted, forgiven, and there is nothing I could ever do to lose this acceptance. In response to His grace, I want to use my gifts and talents to help make this world the kind of place God wants for His people.

Section D – Exhibit VI

Celebration and Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination, Certification and Commissioning of Church Professionals in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Committee on Ministry will recognize at the **142nd Stated Meeting on October 4-5, 2019** all Ministers of Word and Sacrament members of the presbytery who this year celebrate anniversaries in five-year increments. The Presbytery will also recognize currently serving Commissioned Ruling Elders and active and retired Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators celebrating anniversaries in five-year increments. The list below is based on information compiled in the presbytery office. Please check to make sure the information is correct and notify the Presbytery of any changes (email lesliebeld@aol.com).

The following Church Professionals are receiving Engraved Keyrings as First-time Honorees in this presbytery:

Ministers 5 Years

Rev. Becky Purcell

Ministers 15 Years

Rev. Terry McLellan, HR

Rev. Terry Tallent

Ministers 20 Years

Rev. “Danny” Daniel, HR

Rev. “Bill” Seitz

Church Professionals who were earlier honored:

10 Years

Rev. Kade Curry

Rev. Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR

40 Years

Rev. Karen Akin

Rev. Lewis Donelson

Rev. Al Henager

Certified Christian

Educator

25 Years

NiAnn Thompson

15 Years

Rev. Marci Ward

Rev. Georgia Senor

45 Years

Rev. Milton Davis, HR

Rev. David Dyer, HR

Commissioned

Ruling Elders

15 Years

Claire Rhodes

Kenneth Rhodes

25 Years

Rev. Stewart Smith

Rev. Rebecca Spooner

Rev. Leslie Belden

50 Years

Rev. John Barklind, HR

Rev. “Bill” Carr, HR

Rev. Dave King, HR

30 Years

Rev. Sally Johnson, HR

Rev. William Tucker, HR

60 Years

Rev. Fred Taylor, HR

35 Years

Rev. Clif Ford

Rev. “Dick” Shinkle, HR

Rev. Dan Wooley

Section E

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

MWS Jeff Price
Moderator

For Information:

Current Applicants Inquirers – First Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Brianne Christiansen – First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

David Mills – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Candidates – Second Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Jill Acree – First Presbyterian Church, Conway (Granted permission to circulate a Personal Information Form)

LaWanda Harris – Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Julianna Whitson – First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove

Stephen Moody – First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Jordan Akin – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)

Katherine Norwood Kupar – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)

Molly DeWitt – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call) Currently serving as Program Director at Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center

Jeannie Shear – First Presbyterian Church, Conway

CRE Applicants – Ruling Elders in the Educational Process toward serving as a Commissioned Ruling Elder

Ruling Elder Peg Falls-Corbitt – First Presbyterian Church, Conway

Mary Jane Fisher – First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville

Carla Taylor – First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Ellen McEwen – Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Michelle Hall – First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln